

Gadsden's Letter to James Pearson

Charles Town 13 February 1766

Dear Sir,

[First three paragraphs on pp. 170-172 omitted]

[Begins on p. 172]

I do by all means advise you & my Brother not to trust a Man in America if the Parliament is determin'd to enforce **the Act**, God alone knows what will be the Consequence. Your fatal Measures if persisted in will & must **alienate** the **affections** of all true Americans, who are not, & will **shew** if they are drove to Desperation that they will not be Slaves

[Beginning of p. 173]

at least to a thousand Masters, the very worst kind of Slavery, let them be called by Parliamentary or any other Names.

Whether I may ever have the Pleasure of writing to You again God knows, I have endeavor'd to live the Man of Honour & will with God's Assistance die so in any Manner. The Blood of a few firm Men (& I verily believe there are many such in America) even **ministerially** shed will be like that of the **Martyrs** of old, only serve as seed to multiply the supporters of our Noble Cause & Shou'd that be the Issue how nobly will it be pour'd out?

I have not a large but I thank God I have a clear **Estate** & what I am satisfy'd with & the whole with my Life I desire to be ready to sacrifice at a Moment's Warning on the Altar of Liberty & in the Cause of my Country, my highest Ambition is to be found doing my Duty let **my Master** call at Midnight or at what Hour he please. I desire to be all resignation to Him & I am sure he will not leave us or forsake us or suffer us to be tried above what we are able to bear.

I most sincerely wish You & Yours well & that you may never be reduced to the tender & distressful Situation many of us are in. I am Dear Sir, Yours, & ca.
[Christ. Gadsden]

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Glossary (in order of appearance)

the Act - the Stamp Act

alienate - to estrange or make unfriendly

affections - feelings

shew - show

ministerially - legally

martyrs - people who die for a cause they believe in

Estate - a person's possessions such as land, money, etc.

my Master - God

Definitions quoted or based on *The American Heritage Dictionary*. Third College Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.